

**SUMMARY RECORD  
OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH  
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 19 OCTOBER 2004  
(Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain)  
(Section Controls and Import Conditions)  
(Section Animal Health and Welfare)**

President: Eric Pondelet for points 3, 9-13 & 15-17; Gudrun Gallhoff for points 1 & 7;  
Michael Scannell for points 2-6, 8 & 14; Bernard Van Goethem for point  
13a.

All the Member States were present.

**1. Follow-up to RASFF notifications concerning chloramphenicol (XP)  
(CMT/2004/3620)**

The study of community products found positive to chloramphenicol reveals that it concerns mostly mixed products such as honey or powdered milk of which the precise origin is still to be determined.

**2. Russian import conditions for animals and products of animal origin  
(RH) OK**

The Commission distributed to the Member States an English translation of a letter send on 30 September 2004 by the Russian Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance expressing concern about the timely introduction of the new veterinary certificates by the deadline of 1 January 2005.

The Commission further distributed an answer sent to the Russian authorities on 15 October 2004 stating that necessary measures are taken to have the new certification system in place in time.

**3. Information from the Commission: Reflection on the future of  
Community Reference Laboratories (JCC) (CMT/2004/3621)**

The Commission presented to the Member States its reflection on the future of the Community Reference Laboratories.

**4. Information to the Member States on the proposed co-financing to be  
paid for the 2003 Monitoring BSE Programme (SG) OK**

The Commission presented to the Member States the proposed co-financing to be paid to Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece,

Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden for their 2003 TSE Monitoring Programmes.

**5. Information on the lists of establishments approved in the EU and certain other EEA countries (TC) OK**

The Commission informed the Member States of the creation of a specific Web page on the EUROPA site, aimed at improving the access to the lists of establishments approved in the EU and other EEA countries. The page is available at the following address:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/biosafety/establishments/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/biosafety/establishments/index_en.htm)

Links to 19 national websites in Member States are already on-line, but 6 are still missing. The Commission therefore invited the Member States that had not done so yet to provide a link to their lists of establishments and nominate a contact person on this matter.

**6. Opinion of the Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain on a request from the Commission related to the toxicity of fishery products belonging to the family of *Gempylidae* (PC) (CMT/2004/3622 & CMT/2004/3624) OK**

The Commission presented to the Member States the Opinion of the Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain of the European Food Safety Agency on a request from the Commission related to the toxicity of fishery products belonging to the family of *Gempylidae*.

Oilfish (*Ruvettus pretiosus*) and Escolar (*Lepidocybium flavobrunneum*) belonging to the family of *Gempylidae* are consumed in several European countries. These two species do not metabolise wax esters that occur naturally in their diet and, as a consequence, these wax esters are stored in the body of these fish. The wax esters may cause diarrhoea and other acute gastrointestinal symptoms in humans following the consumption of meat from these fish species. The symptoms develop rapidly and may be pronounced but usually are not long lasting. From the case reports available, it is not possible to establish an intake level of such fish which will not lead to these adverse effects but proper preparation practices may prevent such incidences.

Following discussion with the Member States the Commission may review the current legislation for including fishery products of the *Gempylidae* family in the list of poisonous fish for which the placing on the market shall be forbidden.

**7. Conclusions of the meeting on the interpretation of the implementation of Commission Decision 2002/657/EC concerning the performance of analytical methods and the interpretation of the results (Document SANCO/2004/2726) (ABR) (See Point 3 of the 21 September 2004 SFCFAH) (CMT/2004/3625) OK**

The Commission explained the chronology of the drafting of this document. National Reference laboratories have been involved in the discussions since the beginning (May 2004). Additional comments have been received by different laboratories from some Member States and the Community Reference Laboratories are evaluating all new comments and amending the guidelines accordingly. Furthermore, following the Commission Decision on import controls voted at the Standing Committee on 21 September, MRPLs will be considered as reference point for action. This has effect on the validation procedure and the statistical calculations to be performed in the laboratories that has to be reflected in the guidelines.

**8. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2001/881/EC drawing up a list of border inspection posts agreed for veterinary checks on animals and animal products from third countries (Document SANCO/10295/2004, Rev. 4) (NGB) (Legal Basis: Directive 97/78/EC & Directive 91/496/EC) (Right of Scrutiny of the European Parliament) (CMT/2004/3626) OK**

The Commission distributed to the Member States a draft decision on the frequency and scope of missions by the Food and Veterinary Office to review import controls at border inspection posts in Member States.

Those missions should be decided on the basis of risks to the animal and public health in the Community, after consideration of all the information available to the Commission, including patterns of trade in the Community, statistical data available under veterinary legislation, the results of previous missions by the Office, any identified problem areas, and any other relevant information.

**Vote: Unanimous vote in favour**

**9. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Regulation implementing Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards means of disposal or uses of animal by-products and amending its Annex VI as regards biogas transformation and processing of rendered fats (Document SANCO/2153/2003, Rev. 15) (VP) (Legal Basis: Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002) (Right of Scrutiny of the European Parliament) (CMT/2004/3627) OK**

The Commission presented to the Member States, a draft Regulation approving, under certain conditions and for certain categories of materials, the processes of alkaline hydrolysis, high pressure high temperature hydrolysis, high pressure hydrolysis biogas, biodiesel production and Brookes gasification. The draft also amends Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 as regards

biogas transformation and processing of animal fat, which is necessary as a consequence of the approval of the above processes.

The Committee already expressed a unanimous favourable opinion on the text at the 17 March 2004 SCFCAH, before being sent to the WTO for SPS notification. The text received no comments from third countries and the date of application was postponed to 1 January 2005.

**Vote: Unanimous vote in favour**

**Commission Declaration:**

Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 laying down health rules concerning animal-by-products not intended for human consumption was adopted on 3 October 2002. It entered into force on 1 November 2002 and applied from 1 May 2003. The Regulation provides for rules concerning the means of disposal and uses of animal by-products. It also provides for the possibility for additional means of disposal or uses of animal by-products to be approved following consultation of the appropriate scientific committee.

Document SANCO/2153/2003 Rev.15 is a draft Commission Regulation implementing Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 as regards means of disposal or uses of animal by-products and amending its Annex VI as regards biogas transformation and processing of rendered fats. The document approves five additional alternative processes in line with scientific opinions that were available at the time when it received a technical vote of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health in March 2004.

Since March 2004 the European Food Safety Authority has issued two opinions on the “Combustion of tallow in thermal boiler process” (22 April 2004) and the “Biodiesel process” (2 June 2004). The Commission will prepare in due course a modification of Document SANCO/2153/2003 Rev.15 in line with those opinions.

**10. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards processing of animal by-products of fish origin and commercial documents for the transportation of animal by-products (Document SANCO/4708/2003, Rev. 7) (VP) (Legal Basis: Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002) (Right of Scrutiny of the European Parliament) (CMT/2004/3628) OK**

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Regulation laying down the parameters for Method 6 of Annex V of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 for the processing of animal by-products of fish origin and commercial document for the transportation of animal by-products.

The Committee already expressed a unanimous favourable opinion on the text at the 17 March 2004 SCFCAH, before being sent to the WTO for SPS

notification. The text received no comments from third countries and the date of application was postponed to 1 January 2005.

**Vote: Unanimous vote in favour**

**11. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Regulation implementing Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 as regards other uses of Category 3 milk, milk-based products and milk-derived products (Document SANCO/2379/2003, Rev. 10) (VP) (Legal Basis: Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002) (Right of Scrutiny of the European Parliament) OK**

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission authorising, under specific conditions, the collection, transportation, processing, use and storage of milk, milk-based products and milk-derived products, falling within the definition of Category 3 material, that have not been processed in accordance with Chapter V of Annex VIII to that Regulation.

**Vote: 119 votes in favour, 5 abstentions (qualified majority)**

**12. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Decision extending the validity of the transitional measures under Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 as regards the heat treatment process for manure (Document SANCO/2452/2004, Rev. 1) (MM) (Legal Basis: Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002) (Right of Scrutiny of the European Parliament) (CMT/2004/3629) OK**

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision extending until 31 December 2005 the transitional measures as regards the heat treatment process for manure, enabling the Member States to authorise operators to continue to apply national rules, in order to allow the industry time to adjust and develop alternative processes.

**Vote: Unanimous vote in favour**

**13. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Regulation extending the validity of the transitional measures under Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 as regards composting and biogas plants (Document SANCO/2119/2004, Rev. 1) (MM) (Legal Basis: Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002) (Right of Scrutiny of the European Parliament) (CMT/2004/3630) OK**

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Regulation extending until 31 December 2005 the validity of the transitional measures as regards the processing standards for Category 3 material and manure used in composting and biogas plants, enabling the Member States to

authorise operators to continue to apply national rules, pending the opinion of the European Food Safety Agency.

**Vote: Unanimous vote in favour**

**13a. Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2003/828/EC with regards the protection and surveillance zones in relation to bluetongue in Spain (Document SANCO/10610/2004) (JF)**

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision extending the protection and surveillance zones in relation to bluetongue in Spain, following the detection of the bluetongue virus in the eastern part of the province of Cadiz, in the Autonomous Region of Andalusia. The draft Decision concerns the provinces of Cadiz (all comarcas), Malaga (all comarcas), Sevilla (all comarcas except Cazalla de la Sierra), Huelva (Comarcas of La Palma del Condado, Ayamonte and Cartaya) and Cordoba (Comarcas of Lucena, Montilla and Posada).

**Vote: Unanimous vote in favour**

**14. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex XI to Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as regards the importation from Japan of certain products of animal origin intended for technical purpose (Document SANCO/10323/2004) (WMM) (Legal Basis: Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002) (Right of Scrutiny of the European Parliament) (CMT/2004/3631 & CMT/2004/3634 & CMT/2004/3635) OK**

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission regulation as regards the importation from Japan of certain products of animal origin intended for technical purpose. The proposal was briefly discussed with the member States and the Commission outlined minor amendments, which had been agreed in a working group meeting the day before. Member States welcomed the proposal and it was agreed to put the proposal for vote at the 11 November 2004 SCFCAH.

**15. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and animal nutrition (Document SANCO/3027/2004) (KDS) (Legal Basis: Regulation (EC) No 999/2001) (Right of Scrutiny of the European Parliament) (CMT/2004/3632) OK**

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Regulation as regards transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and animal nutrition, to be applied from 1 January 2005.

Since 2001, the use of certain animal proteins has been prohibited in the feeding of farmed animals either because these proteins may potentially contain TSE infectivity or because these proteins, such as fishmeal, could jeopardise the detection of small amounts of potentially TSE infected proteins in feedingstuffs.

Nevertheless, ring trials have demonstrated that the performance of laboratories for detecting small amounts of mammalian proteins in feedingstuffs containing fishmeal has improved considerably with this method. The basis to prohibit the feeding of fishmeal to ruminants is therefore no longer valid and this prohibition should be lifted.

Moreover, hydrolysed proteins derived from ruminant hides and skins are considered to be safe and there is no evidence of the natural occurrence of TSE in non ruminant species from which hydrolysed proteins can be derived from non-ruminant, the current restrictions on the feeding of these hydrolysed proteins should be lifted.

Finally, based on the absence of a natural occurrence of TSE in non-ruminants, the restrictions on the feeding of blood products derived from non-ruminants should also be relaxed, these proteins being also considered as an alternative for antibiotics in the prevention of certain diseases.

**16. Exchange of view on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes III and X to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards epidemio-surveillance for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in bovine, ovine and caprine animals (Document SANCO/1464/2004, Rev. 2) (KDS) (Legal Basis: Regulation (EC) No 999/2001) (Right of Scrutiny of the European Parliament) (CMT/2004/3633) OK**

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Regulation as regards epidemio-surveillance for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in bovine, ovine and caprine animals.

Indeed, in April 2002, the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) recommended a strategy to investigate the possible presence of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in the Community sheep population. A panel of experts on strain typing was therefore assembled by the Community Reference Laboratory for TSE and further defined the strategy recommended by the SSC.

Moreover, the information forwarded in annual and monthly TSE reports by the Member States should be harmonised and additional information, in particular on the age distribution of tested bovine animals, should be requested in order to evaluate the prevalence different age groups.

## 17. Miscellaneous

- The Commission handed out copies of the revised certification rules of New Zealand. The rules are now applicable to all 25 Member States will be in force from 31 October 2004. The previous certificates can be used for a transitional period until end 2004. The documents were also sent by e-mail to all Member States.
- Buffalo Meat Containers in Hamburg
- The Commission distributed to the Member States a provisional version of a European Parliament Working Paper on “The Fish Meal and Fish Oil Industry: Its Role in the Common Fisheries Policy” (FISH 113 EN of 02-2004).
- The Spanish delegation presented to the Commission and the Member States the surveillance programme of Spain as regards Bluetongue, following the discovery of the bluetongue virus in a sentinel bovine farm located in the Province of Cadiz. According to the Spanish authorities the outbreaks of bluetongue are showing low morbidity and few clinical signs in most of the cases and the epidemic is still localised in the Eastern part of the Province of Cadiz.
- The British delegation presented the situation as regards salmonella in eggs originating from Spain.
- The Slovenian Delegation distributed some “Information on Discovered Problems Related to Certification of Hides and Skins” in Slovenia.

N.B. The proposals on which the Committee expressed an opinion are subject to a defined procedure in relation to the formal adoption by the Commission.

Mission reports are available on the Internet at the following address:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/vi/reports/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/vi/reports/index_en.html)

Agendas, summary records and voting results are available on the Comitology Register:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat\\_general/regcomito/recherche.cfm?CL=en](http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/regcomito/recherche.cfm?CL=en)

Paola Testori Coggi  
Director